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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,169	08/02/2006	Christoph Krell	33615	7132
1095	7590	03/31/2009	EXAMINER	
NOVARTIS CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3 EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080			SHAMEEM, GOLAM M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		1626	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
03/31/2009	PAPER			

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/588,169	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KRELL ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Golam M. M. Shameem	<b>Art Unit</b> 1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/17/08; 10/05/07; 11/07/06

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Priority***

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP05/00978 02/01/2005 which claims benefit for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to UK 0402262.0 02/02/2004, is acknowledged.

***Status of Claims***

Claims 1-39 are currently pending in the application.

Receipt is acknowledged of amendment / response filed on March 04, 2009 and that has been entered.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

Receipt is acknowledged of Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), filed on 09/17/2008, which has been entered in the file.

***Response to Election/Restriction***

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants have elected Group I, (which includes claims 1-16) drawn to a process for preparing a compound of the formula (I) **without traverse** is acknowledged.

Claims 17-39 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142 (b) as being drawn to a non-elected subject matter.

Applicants preserve their right to file a divisional on the non-elected subject matter.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections, set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior

art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denni-Dischert *et al* (WO 2004/026847). Applicant claims coupling reactions useful in the preparation of (1h-tetrazol-5-yl) biphenyl derivatives and thereof.

*Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)*

Denni-Dischert *et al* also teach the coupling reaction in a process for the synthesis of Valsartan, an angiotensin receptor blocker similar to those of instantly claimed invention.

*Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)*

The difference between the claimed process and that of the reference herein lies in the absence of an additional step to incorporate a protecting group into the starting material tetrazole compound of the instantly claimed process, otherwise all other reagents, intermediates, reaction conditions (such as, using transition metal catalyst) are identical as in the prior art [see especially p11-14].

*Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP §2142-2413)*

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the chemical and/or pharmaceutical art at the time of the invention was made since Denni-Dischert *et al* teach process which is generic to the instantly claimed coupling reaction process. Therefore, in the instant case, one skilled in the chemical art would be motivated to choose to prepare (1h-tetrazol-5-yl) biphenyl derivatives which comprises a direct reaction between compound of formula (II b) and compound of formula (II c) in the presence of transition metal catalyst without introducing a

protecting group reaction step in order to obtain the desired product, since protecting groups can be removed by acid treatment. Therefore, in looking at the instant claimed invention as a whole, the claimed process would have been suggested to one skilled in the art unless unobvious or unexpected results can be shown.

***Telephone Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Golam Shameem, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0706. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached at (571) 272-0699. The Unofficial fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7922. The Official fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300. When filing a FAX in Technology Center 1600, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communications with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [joseph.mckane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality

requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or public PAIR only. For more information about the pair system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

/Golam M. M. Shameem/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1626  
Technology Center 1600

Application/Control Number: 10/588,169  
Art Unit: 1626

Page 6